



GradNewsLine



Official Newsletter of the Graduate School & Online Programs Office,
Visayas State University

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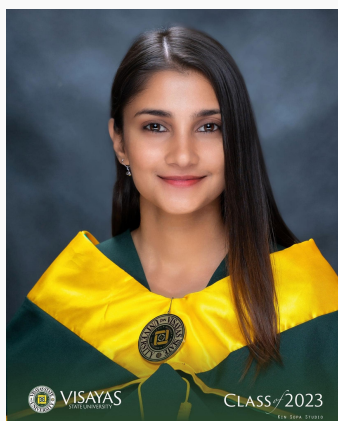
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VSU Graduate School Celebrates 70th Commencement Exercise, Welcomes First Nepali Master's Graduate



**Ms. Bandanaa Regmi
MS in Forestry**

Visayas State University (VSU) held its 70th Commencement Exercise on August 3, 2023, mark-

ing a momentous occasion for the university and its graduates. The ceremony, held at the university's Upper Oval, saw two PhD and a total of 70 master's graduates march across the stage, ready to embark on the next chapter of their lives. Among the distinguished graduates was Ms. Bandanaa Regmi, who became VSU's very first master's student from Nepal. Ms. Regmi successfully earned a Master's in Science ...

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UC Invites VSU Graduate Students to Thailand Summer School

The prestigious University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) has extended an invitation to two of our graduate students in the Visayas State University (VSU) Main Campus to partake in their highly anticipated 2023 Southeast Asian Summer School.

The fortunate recipients of this invitation are Mr. Joemel Labrador (MS Agronomy) and Mr. Ceasarivic Niño Gascon (MS Plant Pathology). The two-week postgraduate summer school course, scheduled from July 24 to August 4, 2023, was hosted by Kasetsart University in association with the TALENT program on sustainable landscape management. The immersive two-week summer school will focus on the critical subject of sustainable landscape management under the theme "Sustainability of Agricultural Systems in Difficult Environments." Its primary goal is to enrich the

knowledge of the participating students and professionals in rural studies, agriculture, and natural resource management. The core essence of the curriculum will revolve around promoting sustainable management and building the capacity of agricultural systems facing growing environmental constraints, linked with the current changes in the climate and the extension of cultivated land in dry and adverse environments in Southeast Asia. The 2023 UC Summer School



**Mr. Labrador (MS Agronomy)
during the UC**

will be conducted in a blended format. Prior to the face-to-face session, the participants were engaged in a series of online sessions on July 5, 12, and 17. Discussions were tackled by the Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics, Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart

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EDITOR'S *Corner*

Dr. Anabella B. Tulin

It brings me immense pride to present the July to December 2023 issue of the GradNewsLine, shining a light on Visayas State University's (VSU) thriving community of graduate students and faculty achieving remarkable success across all fronts.

As VSU's Graduate School Dean, this university continues to push boundaries and pursue excellence in our goal to become globally competitive. This issue reflects the great strides we have made towards that vision.

Our cover story highlights a truly historic moment - VSU's 70th Commencement Exercise and the graduation of our first Nepali master's student, Ms. Bandana Regmi. I cannot fully capture in words the jubilation and hope that filled the air that day. It was a testament to the university's commitment to building an inclusive, progressive and globally-oriented academic environment. Students of all backgrounds now proudly call VSU their alma mater. This issue also demonstrates VSU's rapid emergence as a regional leader, building strategic partnerships across Southeast Asia. You will read about our students' enriching experiences at the UC Thailand Summer School, the AEI-ASEM Summer School in Malaysia and other global education platforms. These pave the way for meaningful exchanges of knowledge and ideas between VSU and the world.

Additionally, the promising visit from the Fulbright Commission explored greater collaboration between Filipino and American academia. With VSU Graduate School's expertise and the Commission's sterling reputation, we can achieve great things together. As I reflect on all we have achieved as a community, I see boundless potential ahead. Our students and faculty now stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the region's and the world's best. As Editor-in-Chief, it heartens me deeply to play a role in this journey.

It is also with great pride that along with our VSU faculty and staff, we were able to strengthen our ties with Southeast Asian neighbors through successful collaborations. On September 3-13, 2023, we visited Vietnam National University (Vietnam-Japan University & Vietnam University of Engineering and Technology) National University of Laos, and Royal University of Agriculture in Cambodia. Discussions and plans were made focusing on fostering collaborative research projects in various disciplines for knowledge sharing and professional development opportunities across Southeast Asia. These universities also promised to visit our university to pave the way for the implementation of the discussed initiatives.

I am excited to continue serving our graduate school community to push new frontiers in science and research. Together, we will realize VSU's vision to become a truly world-class university. This issue of the newsletter provides a glimpse into that bright future.

As you flip through the pages, I hope you feel that same sense of optimism and possibility that we at VSU Graduate School feel every day. Our students are breaking barriers, earning accolades on the global stage, and preparing to change the world. Our faculty members are pioneering cutting-edge research with international partners while passing the torch to the next generation.

And this is only the beginning. The frontiers ahead seem limitless. What an honor it is to chronicle these stories and play a small part in empowering these current and future leaders.

On behalf of the entire editorial team, we thank you for allowing us to share these stories with you. Here's to greater heights ahead as we march confidently into the future - together!

University via Zoom. This was followed by a face-to-face session which is held from July 24 to August 4 held at Kasetsart University, Chalermpharakiat Sakon Nakhon Province Campus, and at Kasetsat Sakon Nakhon Province Airport. This opportunity will provide them with an enriching experience to deepen their expertise in their respective fields and an extraordinary experience in their academic journey.

Photo credits: Ceasarivic Niño Gascon (MS Plant Pathology Student)

Four Graduate Students Embark at AEI-ASEM Summer School 2023

In an exciting academic endeavor, four of our graduate students, namely Ms. Elia Maury C. Jadina (MS DevSoc), Ms. Cristela E. Boco (MS Devcom), Mr. Harem Gregory Estimada (MS Ansci), and Mr. Archille C. Galupo (MS AgEx), have attended the prestigious AEI-ASEM Summer School 2023.

The AEI-ASEM Summer School is a transformative and immersive program hosted by the Asia-Europe Institute, Universiti Malaya, held in city of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Spanning from July 31 to August 13, this summer program revolves around the theme: "Civilisational Dialogue for a Sustainable Future." Its primary objective is to foster a balanced mobility of students, researchers, and academics between the continents of Asia and Europe.

The AEI-ASEM Summer School lie various eclectic approaches that promote interdisciplinary learning, intercultural exchanges, cultural immersion, and inclusivity. The program seeks to build harmony and celebrate cultural diversity within the Asian region. Participants are encouraged to engage in meaningful dialogues, appreciating different perspectives while working towards a sustainable future.

The summer program integrates lecture modules with a strategic mix of activities, field trips, and knowledge/skill-building sessions. These hands-on experiences provide valuable insights and practical wisdom to all participants. By the end of the course, attendees will acquire valuable skills and knowledge to Compare and differentiate the issues which serve as barriers to social and sustainable development, assess

the use of innovation and Green Technology for sustainable practices and demonstrate



Faculty of ESSU together with GS Staff & Faculty

Graduate School Dean, Dr. Anabella B. Tulin, shares the milestones and achievements of the Graduate School to the faculty of ESSU during a benchmarking session with VSU Graduate School. Dr. Bayron Barredo, the Dean of the College of Education, and Dr. Manuel G. Gacutan, the Department Head of the Department of Animal Science, also present the notable achievements of their respective departments.

awareness of different civilizational experiences in dealing with contemporary social and development issues.

The AEI-ASEM Summer program was consist of 40 candidates. It encouraged both undergraduate and postgraduate university students to apply for the summer program. By bringing together scholars from diverse academic backgrounds, the program aims to create a dynamic and enriching learning environment. The graduate students attending this summer school will foster international friendships, forge meaningful connections, and contribute to a more globally aware and responsible society.



VSU Graduate Students during AEI-ASEM

GS Dean Honored with Outstanding Public Official and Employee Award

The Graduate School takes immense pride in extending heartfelt congratulations to the esteemed Dean, Dr. Anabella B. Tulin, for her remarkable achievement in winning the Outstanding Public Official and Employee Award, also known as the Dangal ng Bayan (DNB) Regional Category.

This prestigious award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary acts of public service and consistently exhibited exemplary ethical behavior in accordance with Republic Act No. 6713, also known as the "Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees." Along with Dr. Tulin in this outstanding achievement is one of our university's administrative staff members, Mr. Armando M. Pabon, who has also been recognized in the same category.

Dr. Tulin stands as one of Visayas State University's (VSU) three exceptional university professors. With her profound knowledge and expertise, she has made significant contributions to teaching, research, administration, and extension activities throughout her career. Her relentless pursuit of advanced higher education has garnered widespread acclaim, with one of her notable successes is encouraging globalization and the provision of scholarships for underprivileged and foreign students, even in the midst of the epidemic.

Under Dr. Tulin's leadership, she has forged valuable connections with foreign scientists, enabling her MS thesis advisees to secure prestigious Ph.D. scholarships abroad. By actively seeking scholarships to expand the pool of biotechnology researchers in the nation, she has made significant contributions to the field, particularly during pandemics. Furthermore, she has bestowed scholarships upon the most deserving undergraduate Biotechnology students, nurturing a new generation of talented individuals.

Dr. Anabella B. Tulin's tireless efforts and exceptional contributions have not gone unnoticed. Numerous award-giving organizations, both on a national and international scale, have recognized and commended her exemplary work. Her dedication and passion for fostering academic excellence and advancing scientific research have set a benchmark for others in the field.

Photo courtesy of Civil Service Commission Regional Office VIII



GS Student Shines at AEI-ASEM Summer School: Leadership, Presentation Prowess, and Championing Women's Causes

During the AEI-ASEM Summer School 2023 Cultural Night, Ms. Elia Maury C. Jadina (MS DevSoc), a graduate student who participated in the program, was honored with the Special Leadership Award. Additionally, she received a token of appreciation from the University of Malaya, Asia-Europe Institute (UM AEI). Among the 24 student delegates from various

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The Graduate School is pleased to receive four international students from Bangladesh and Belgium. Among them, two gentlemen from Bangladesh are pursuing Master's degrees in Tropical Ecology and Soil Science, while the two ladies are participating as exchange students from KU Leuven in Belgium.

countries including the Philippines, Indonesia, China, Japan, Pakistan, and Russia, Ms. Jadina was recognized as the Overall Best Presenter (3rd Place). Furthermore, the group led by Ms. Jadina achieved the distinction of Best Group Presentation for their topic titled "Bridging the Gap: Addressing Women's Challenges in Asian Countries".



Ms. Jadina being awarded with the Special Leadership Award

Fulbright Commission Visits VSU Graduate School, Explores Collaboration Opportunities

The Philippine-American Educational Foundation (PAEF), also known as the Fulbright Commission in the Philippines, recently conducted an ocular visit to the Visayas State University (VSU) Graduate School on November 28, 2023. The visit marked a significant step towards establishing and promoting international education and exchange between the Philippines and the United States.

Upon their arrival, the PAEF personnel were warmly welcomed by the Graduate School Dean, Dr. Anabella B. Tulin, at the VSU Graduate School Conference Room. The delegation engaged in discussions with the Graduate School Faculty and Staff, gaining insights into the Fulbright programs and exploring potential collaboration opportunities.

In turn, the Graduate School team presented an overview of their degree programs, admission requirements, and scholarship information, including tuition fees, allowances, university insurance, and other relevant details. Additionally, they addressed the admission requirements specifically tailored for international students.

To gain a deeper understanding of the Graduate School's international student experience, the PAEF personnel conducted interviews with several current international students, gathering valuable firsthand perspectives. The interviews provided a glimpse into the challenges and triumphs of pursuing graduate studies at VSU as an international student.

Before concluding their visit, the PAEF delegation embarked on a campus tour, immersing themselves in the vibrant academic environment of VSU. The tour provided them with a firsthand experience of the university's facilities, resources, and the overall atmosphere that fosters academic

excellence and cultural diversity.

The PAEF's visit to VSU Graduate School marks a promising step towards strengthening international partnerships and promoting academic exchange between the Philippines and the United States. The visit fostered a spirit of collaboration and opened doors for future initiatives that will benefit students, faculty, and researchers from both countries.

The Fulbright Commission, with its longstanding reputation for excellence in international education, has a proven track record of facilitating knowledge exchange and fostering mutual understanding between nations. The visit to VSU Graduate School aligns with the Commission's mission to promote international education and collaboration, paving the way for future endeavors that will enrich the academic landscape of both countries.



Fulbright personnel during their visit in VSU Graduate School



Dr. Tulin & Dr. Quilicot during the 36th UC Executive Board Meeting

VSU Achieves Full Membership in Prestigious University Consortium

Visayas State University (VSU) has reached a landmark milestone in its internationalization journey, achieving full membership status in the esteemed University Consortium (UC). This prestigious group, established by the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research Agriculture (SEARCA) and leading academic institutions in Southeast Asia, serves as a platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange among universities in the region.

The official announcement of VSU's full membership came during the 36th UC Executive Board Meeting held at National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan, on October 30-31, 2023. Representing VSU at the meeting were Dr. Ana Marquiza Quilicot, Director of the International Affairs Office and UC Coordinator, and the Dean of the Graduate School and UC Executive Officer, Dr. Anabella B. Tulin. This news marked a significant moment for VSU, highlighting the dedicated efforts and culminating a journey initiated in 2000 by Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin, then-University President, in guiding VSU towards increased international engagement.

VSU's journey towards full membership was further bolstered by successfully hosting the University Faculty

Forum in September 2023. This event brought together faculty members from Thailand, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, fostering valuable connections and academic exchange.

The UC membership presents numerous opportunities for VSU. Faculty and students gain access to collaborative research initiatives, exchange programs, and professional development opportunities, enriching their academic experience and expanding their networks across the region. Additionally, VSU gains a prominent voice in shaping the academic landscape of Southeast Asia, contributing to regional advancements in various fields.

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VSU Graduate School Celebrates 70th ...

in Forestry, demonstrating her dedication and perseverance in her academic pursuits. Her achievement is a testament to the university's commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive academic environment.

Ms. Regmi's journey to VSU is an inspiring tale of resilience and determination. Hailing from a remote village in Nepal, she faced numerous challenges in accessing quality education. However, her passion for forestry and her unwavering spirit drove her to pursue higher education. With the support of her family, community, and the university, she successfully navigated the rigors of graduate studies.

Ms. Regmi's success is not only a personal triumph but also a significant milestone for VSU's internationalization efforts. Her presence among the graduating class serves as a beacon of hope for aspiring scholars from around the world, demonstrating that VSU is a welcoming place where academic excellence and cultural diversity thrive.

The university's Graduate Fellowship Program, which provided financial support to Ms. Regmi, played a crucial role in her success. This program reflects VSU's commitment to nurturing talent and providing opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds to achieve their educational goals.

Ms. Regmi's achievement stands as a testament to the transformative power of education and the far-reaching impact of VSU's academic excellence. Her story serves as an inspiration to all graduates, reminding them that with hard work, determination, and the support of a nurturing environment, dreams can indeed come true.

This achievement reflects VSU's commitment to internationalization and its dedication to advancing knowledge through collaboration. With its full membership in the UC, VSU embarks on a new chapter, poised to connect with renowned institutions, deepen its research and academic pursuits, and contribute to the collective growth of the Southeast Asian intellectual landscape.

VSU Builds Partnerships for Education and Research in Southeast Asia

Visayas State University (VSU) has taken a major step towards strengthening its ties with Southeast Asian neighbors through successful collaborations with top universities in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The university's warm reception by officials at Vietnam National University (Vietnam-Japan University & Vietnam University of Engineering and Technology) National University of Laos, and Royal University of Agriculture in Cambodia underscores the growing spirit of cooperation and exchange within the ASEAN region.

VSU faculty and staff were met with touching hospitalities and warm welcomes during their recent outreach on September 3-13, 2023, laying the groundwork for future partnerships in research, student exchange programs, and faculty mobility initiatives. The visit provided a platform to introduce VSU's academic strengths and explore areas of mutual interest with their ASEAN counterparts.

Discussions focused on fostering collaborative research projects spanning various disciplines, with an emphasis on addressing regional challenges and promoting sustainable development. The potential for student exchange programs was also explored, with the aim of enriching the educational experience for students from all four universities. Additionally, plans were set in motion for faculty mobility initiatives, allowing for knowledge sharing and professional development opportunities across borders.

The enthusiasm for collaboration was further solidified by Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Laos and the promise of reciprocal visits from the Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian universities. These planned visits to VSU will serve to further strengthen the bonds established and pave the way for the implementation of the discussed initiatives.

VSU's successful outreach to its ASEAN neighbors marks a significant milestone in its journey towards becoming a leading regional university. The established partnerships hold

immense potential for advancing academic excellence, fostering cultural understanding, and driving positive change in Southeast Asia. The warmth and hospitality experienced during the visit serve as a testament to the region's shared values and aspirations for a brighter future, built on the foundation of education and collaboration.



VSU Faculty and Staff during their visit to universities in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia

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- VSU Graduate School Code
- Graduate School Program Manual of Operations
- GradNewsLine
- Science and Humanities Journal
- Graduate School Information Bulletin



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